Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 17, 19, 20, and 26. Please amend claims 3, 5-7, 9, 12, 14-16, 18, 21, 23-25 and 27. Please add new claims 28-30. The currently pending claims after amendment are listed below.

1 -2.   (Cancelled)

1   3.   (Currently Amended)   The method of ~~claim 2~~ claim 9, wherein the step of sorting the
2   plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message
3   further comprises:
4   comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses.

1   4.   (Original)   The method of claim 3, wherein the step of comparing a sender's address for
2   each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses further comprises:
3   comparing the sender's address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses
4   including a set of fixed entries specified by a user and a set of dynamic entries containing
5   addresses selected from historical message tracking information based on rules specified by the
6   user.

1   5.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ A method of ~~claim 3~~ displaying electronic mail messages,
2   comprising:
3   sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria including at least one
4   criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological, or based on a previous viewing of corresponding
5   messages;
6   ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria; and
7   displaying the plurality of messages in the order specified by the user-defined sort criteria;

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8   wherein the step of sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria

9   including at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological or based on a previous

10   viewing of corresponding messages further comprises sorting the plurality of messages based on a

11   user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message;

12   wherein the step of sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization

13   of a sender's address for each message further comprises comparing a sender's address for each

14   message to a ranked list of senders' addresses;

15   wherein the step of comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list of

16   senders' addresses further comprises:

17   comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders' addresses specified by

18   a user as higher priority than other messages;

19   comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders' addresses

20   automatically selected based on historical message tracking information as higher priority than

21   other messages;

22   comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders' addresses specified by

23   a user as lower priority than other messages; and

24   comparing the sender's address for each message to a first set of senders' addresses

25   automatically selected based on historical message tracking information as lower priority than

26   other messages.

1   6.   (Currently Amended)   The method of ~~claim 2~~ claim 5, wherein the step of ordering the

2   plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria further comprises:

3   ordering the plurality of messages with any messages including a sender's address

4   matching an address within a first entry within the ranked list listed first, with any messages

5   including a sender's address matching an address within a second entry within the ranked list

6   listed second, and with any messages including a sender's address matching an address within any

7   subsequent entry within the ranked list listed at a corresponding position within an ordered listing

8   of the plurality of messages.

1   7.   (Currently Amended)   The method of ~~claim 2~~ claim 9, wherein the step of sorting the

2   plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message

3   further comprises:

4   comparing a sender's address within each message to addresses specified by a user.

     8.   (Cancelled)

1   9.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ A method of ~~claim 8~~ displaying electronic mail messages,

2   comprising:

3   sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria including at least one

4   criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological, or based on a previous viewing of corresponding

5   messages;

6   ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria; and

7   displaying the plurality of messages in the order specified by the user-defined sort criteria;

8   wherein the step of sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria

9   including at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological or based on a previous

10   viewing of corresponding messages further comprises sorting the plurality of messages based on a

11   user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message;

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12   wherein the step of sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization

13 of a sender's address for each message further comprises comparing a sender's address within

14 each message to addresses selected from a historical tracking of previous messages based upon

15 rules specified by a user;

16   wherein the step of comparing a sender's address within each message to addresses

17 selected from a historical tracing of previous messages based upon rules specified by a user

18 further comprises at least one of:

19   selecting addresses from messages to which a user replies for higher listing within a sort

20 order than addresses from messages to which the user never replies;

21   selecting addresses from messages to which a user replies more quickly than

22 contemporaneous messages for higher listing within the sort order than other addresses;

23   selecting addresses from messages which a user opens more quickly than contemporaneous

24 messages for higher listing within the sort order than other addresses;

25   selecting addresses from messages which a user opens more quickly than contemporaneous

26 messages for lower listing within the sort order than other addresses; and

27   selecting addresses from messages which a user deletes without opening for lower listing

28 within the sort order than other addresses.

10 - 11. (Cancelled)

1 12. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 11~~ claim 18, wherein the means for sorting the

2 plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message

3 further comprises:

4   comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses.

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1   13.   (Original)   The system of claim 12, wherein the means for comparing a sender's address

2   for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses further comprises:

3   means for comparing the sender's address for each message to a ranked list of senders'

4   addresses including a set of fixed entries specified by a user and a set of dynamic entries

5   containing addresses selected from historical message tracking information based on rules

6   specified by the user.

1   14.   (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A system ~~of claim 12~~ for displaying electronic mail messages,

2   comprising:

3   an electronic mail client application;

4   a plurality of messages;

5   means for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria including at

6   least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological, or based on a previous viewing of

7   corresponding messages;

8   means for ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria; and

9   means for displaying the plurality of messages in the order specified by the user-defined

10   sort criteria;

11   wherein the means for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria

12   including at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological or based on a previous

13   viewing of corresponding messages further comprises means for sorting the plurality of messages

14   based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message;

15   wherein the means for sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined

16   prioritization of a sender's address for each message further comprises comparing a sender's

17   address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses;

18   wherein the means for comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list of

19   senders' addresses further comprises:

20 means for comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders' addresses

21 specified by a user as higher priority than other messages;

22 means for comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders' addresses

23 automatically selected based on historical message tracking information as higher priority than

24 other messages;

25 means for comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders' addresses

26 specified by a user as lower priority than other messages; and

27 means for comparing the sender's address for each message to a first set of senders'

28 addresses automatically selected based on historical message tracking information as lower

29 priority than other messages.

1 15.   (Currently Amended)   The system of ~~claim 11~~ claim 14, wherein the means for ordering

2 the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria further comprises:

3 means for ordering the plurality of messages with any messages including a sender's

4 address matching an address within a first entry within the ranked list listed first, with any

5 messages including a sender's address matching an address within a second entry within the

6 ranked list listed second, and with any messages including a sender's address matching an address

7 within any subsequent entry within the ranked list listed at a corresponding position within an

8 ordered listing of the plurality of messages.

1 16.   (Currently Amended)   The system of ~~claim 11~~ claim 18, wherein the means for sorting the

2 plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message

3 further comprises:

4 means for comparing a sender's address within each message to addresses specified by a

5 user.

17.   (Cancelled)

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1   18.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ A system ~~of claim 17~~ for displaying electronic mail messages,

2   comprising:

3   an electronic mail client application;

4   a plurality of messages;

5   means for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria including at

6   least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological, or based on a previous viewing of

7   corresponding messages;

8   means for ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria; and

9   means for displaying the plurality of messages in the order specified by the user-defined

10   sort criteria;

11   wherein the means for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria

12   including at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological or based on a previous

13   viewing of corresponding messages further comprises means for sorting the plurality of messages

14   based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message;

15   wherein the means for sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined

16   prioritization of a sender's address for each message further comprises means for comparing a

17   sender's address within each message to addresses selected from a historical tracking of previous

18   messages based upon rules specified by a user;

19   wherein the means for comparing a sender's address within each message to addresses

20   selected from a historical tracing of previous messages based upon rules specified by a user

21   further comprises at least one of:

22   means for selecting addresses from messages to which a user replies for higher listing

23   within a sort order than addresses from messages to which the user never replies;

24   means for selecting addresses from messages to which a user replies more quickly than

25   contemporaneous messages for higher listing within the sort order than other addresses;

26   means for selecting addresses from messages which a user opens more quickly than

27   contemporaneous messages for higher listing within the sort order than other addresses;

28   means for selecting addresses from messages which a user opens more quickly than

29   contemporaneous messages for lower listing within the sort order than other addresses; and

30   means for selecting addresses from messages which a user deletes without opening for

31   lower listing within the sort order than other addresses.

19 - 20.   (Cancelled)

1   21.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product of ~~claim 20~~ claim 27, wherein the

2   instructions for sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a

3   sender's address for each message further comprises:

4   comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses.

1   22.   (Original)   The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the instructions for

2   comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses further

3   comprises:

4   instructions for comparing the sender's address for each message to a ranked list of

5   senders' addresses including a set of fixed entries specified by a user and a set of dynamic entries

6   containing addresses selected from historical message tracking information based on rules

7   specified by the user.

1   23.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ A computer program product ~~of claim 21~~ within a computer

2   usable medium for displaying electronic mail messages, comprising:

3   instructions for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria including

4   at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological, or based on a previous viewing of

5   corresponding messages;

6   instructions for ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort

7   criteria; and

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8   instructions for displaying the plurality of messages in the order specified by the user-

9   defined sort criteria;

10   wherein the instructions for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort

11   criteria including at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological or based on a

12   previous viewing of corresponding messages further comprises instructions for sorting the

13   plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each

14   message;

15   wherein the instructions for sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined

16   prioritization of a sender's address for each message further comprises comparing a sender's

17   address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses;

18   wherein the instructions for comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list

19   of senders' addresses further comprises:

20   instructions for comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders'

21   addresses specified by a user as higher priority than other messages;

22   instructions for comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders'

23   addresses automatically selected based on historical message tracking information as higher

24   priority than other messages;

25   instructions for comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders'

26   addresses specified by a user as lower priority than other messages; and

27   instructions for comparing the sender's address for each message to a first set of senders'

28   addresses automatically selected based on historical message tracking information as lower

29   priority than other messages.

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1   24.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product of ~~claim 20~~ claim 23, wherein the

2   instructions for ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria

3   further comprises:

4   instructions for ordering the plurality of messages with any messages including a sender's

5   address matching an address within a first entry within the ranked list listed first, with any

6   messages including a sender's address matching an address within a second entry within the

7   ranked list listed second, and with any messages including a sender's address matching an address

8   within any subsequent entry within the ranked list listed at a corresponding position within an

9   ordered listing of the plurality of messages.

1   25.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product of ~~claim 20~~ claim 27, wherein the

2   instructions for sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a

3   sender's address for each message further comprises:

4   instructions for comparing a sender's address within each message to addresses specified

5   by a user.

     26.   (Cancelled)

1   27.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ A computer program product ~~of claim 26~~ within a computer

2   usable medium for displaying electronic mail messages, comprising:

3   instructions for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria including

4   at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological, or based on a previous viewing of

5   corresponding messages;

6   instructions for ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort

7   criteria; and

8   instructions for displaying the plurality of messages in the order specified by the user-

9   defined sort criteria;

10   wherein the instructions for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort

11   criteria including at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological or based on a

12   previous viewing of corresponding messages further comprises instructions for sorting the

13   plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each

14   message;

15   wherein the instructions for sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined

16   prioritization of a sender's address for each message further comprises instructions for comparing

17   a sender's address within each message to addresses selected from a historical tracking of

18   previous messages based upon rules specified by a user;

19   wherein the instructions for comparing a sender's address within each message to

20   addresses selected from a historical tracing of previous messages based upon rules specified by a

21   user further comprises at least one of:

22   instructions for selecting addresses from messages to which a user replies for higher listing

23   within a sort order than addresses from messages to which the user never replies;

24   instructions for selecting addresses from messages to which a user replies more quickly

25   than contemporaneous messages for higher listing within the sort order than other addresses;

26   instructions for selecting addresses from messages which a user opens more quickly than

27   contemporaneous messages for higher listing within the sort order than other addresses;

28   instructions for selecting addresses from messages which a user opens more quickly than

29   contemporaneous messages for lower listing within the sort order than other addresses; and

30   instructions for selecting addresses from messages which a user deletes without opening

31   for lower listing within the sort order than other addresses.

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1   28.   (New)   The method of claim 9, wherein the step of ordering the plurality of messages

2   according to the user-defined sort criteria further comprises:

3   ordering the plurality of messages with any messages including a sender's address

4   matching an address within a first entry within the ranked list listed first, with any messages

5   including a sender's address matching an address within a second entry within the ranked list

6   listed second, and with any messages including a sender's address matching an address within any

7   subsequent entry within the ranked list listed at a corresponding position within an ordered listing

8   of the plurality of messages.

1   29.   (New)   The system of claim 18, wherein the means for ordering the plurality of messages

2   according to the user-defined sort criteria further comprises:

3   means for ordering the plurality of messages with any messages including a sender's

4   address matching an address within a first entry within the ranked list listed first, with any

5   messages including a sender's address matching an address within a second entry within the

6   ranked list listed second, and with any messages including a sender's address matching an address

7   within any subsequent entry within the ranked list listed at a corresponding position within an

8   ordered listing of the plurality of messages.

1   30.   (New)   The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the instructions for ordering

2   the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria further comprises:

3   instructions for ordering the plurality of messages with any messages including a sender's

4   address matching an address within a first entry within the ranked list listed first, with any

5   messages including a sender's address matching an address within a second entry within the

6   ranked list listed second, and with any messages including a sender's address matching an address

7   within any subsequent entry within the ranked list listed at a corresponding position within an

8   ordered listing of the plurality of messages.